

Amsterdam's Homomonument

June 7-13, 1987

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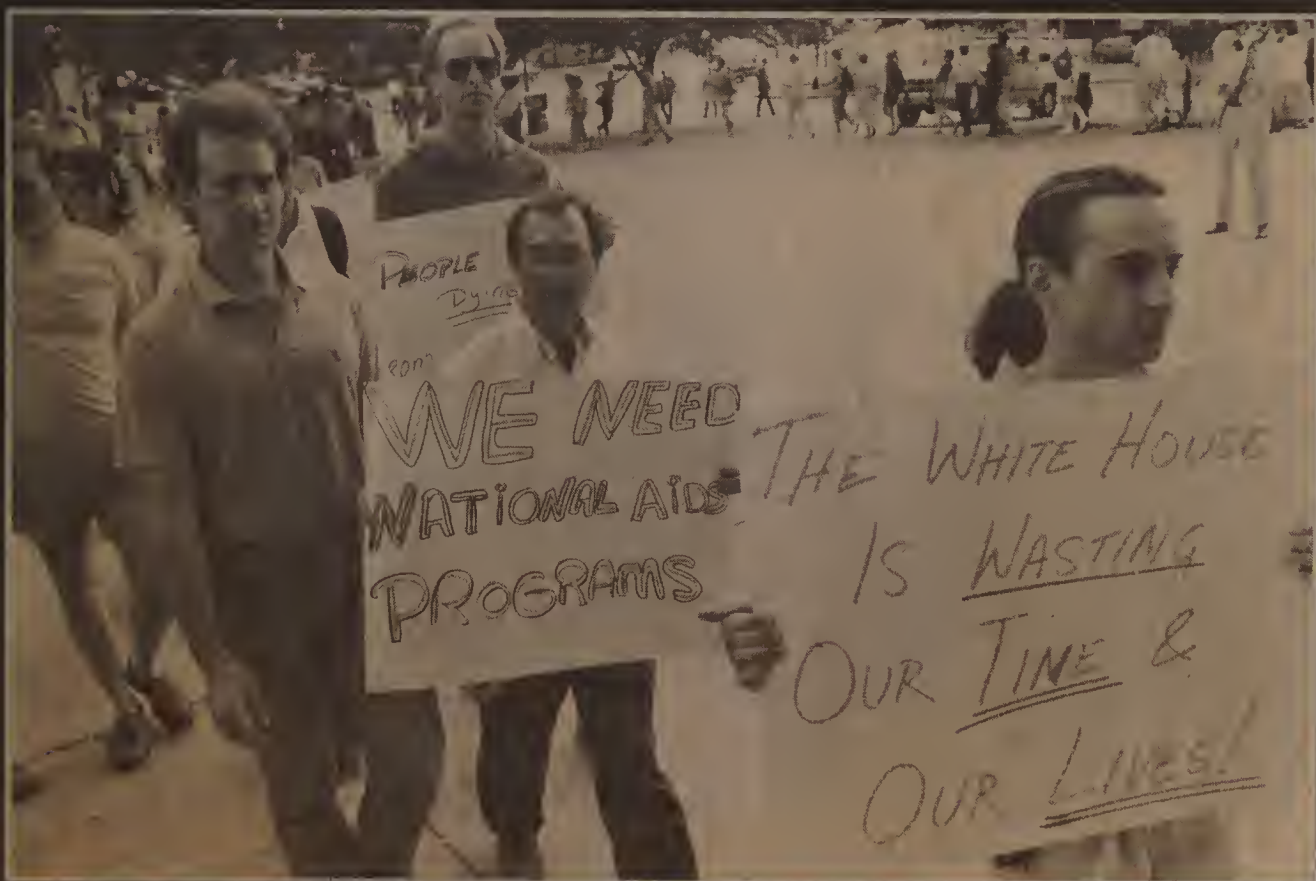
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**As promised, the President's
first action on AIDS will be
further denial of civil rights.**



GayCommunityNews

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June 7-13, 1987

Reagan to Force HIV Testing

By Kim Westheimer

WASHINGTON, DC — Supporters of mandatory HIV testing were given a tremendous boost by President Ronald Reagan's first public speech addressing AIDS. The May 31 speech, delivered at a fundraiser for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), called for mandatory HIV testing for federal prisoners, potential immigrants and possibly for patients in Veteran Administration hospitals. Reagan also suggested that states consider routine testing for marriage license applicants and state and local prisoners.

Opponents to mandatory HIV testing assert that the door has been opened to the institution of dangerous policies that infringe on civil liberties.

This concern was amplified by a unanimous Senate vote, two days following Reagan's speech, which supports his proposal to impose HIV testing on would-be immigrants to the U.S. The Senate vote was 96-0.

Currently, immigrants seeking permanent residence in the U.S. are tested for diseases such as

leprosy, tuberculosis, syphilis and gonorrhea. People with these diseases are not allowed to immigrate.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBP) currently tests inmates "when clinically indicated by medical staff," according to FBP spokesperson Maryellen Thoms. "At that point if someone is [HIV] positive but not showing AIDS symptoms [he or she] would not be transferred. A transfer would occur if [a prisoner] shows an opportunistic infection." Prisoners with AIDS are transferred to FBP medical centers — men go to Springfield, Missouri and women go to Lexington, Kentucky.

Plans are currently underway to make the federal prison system comply with Reagan's orders for increased testing, said Thoms. "They're under the gun," said Urvasi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "My impression is they don't want to test. They're getting pressure from the White House."

Apart from the Senate vote, Reagan's call for widespread testing has received little support

from the medical or public policy communities, who were widely represented at the International AIDS Conference held this week in Washington, D.C. In fact, Jeff Levi, executive director of the NGLTF, said people at the conference appeared to be "shell-shocked" by Reagan's speech. People from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are the "most depressed" by Reagan's statements, added Levi.

In his address to the conference Deputy Director of the CDC, Dr. Donald Hopkins, said, "If the net effect of widespread mandatory testing would be to reduce the number of persons at higher risk who are in fact counselled and tested because many are scared away, then mandatory testing would not service that crucial public health objective [of preventing the spread of infection]."

But an increasing number of states have been faced with proposed legislation which would mandate HIV testing for marriage license applicants. And on May 15 the Public Health Service proposed mandatory HIV testing for all immigrants seeking permanent resident status in the U.S. Mandatory testing for potential immigrants and federal prisoners can be instated via the executive branch with no legislative action.

"I think this is going to encourage a lot of people who have been in favor of mandatory testing all along to increase their efforts. And it's going to make it easier for people on the fence to go along [with mandatory testing,]" said Kevin Cathcart, director of the Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). "It's infuriating that after all these years this is the response of the federal government."

Proposals fueled by racism

Immigrants and federal prisoners are "easy targets," noted Cathcart. "The average person on the street is not going to be

threatened by a program for testing immigrants or prisoners."

When Reagan delivered his speech at the AMFAR fundraiser, spectators booed and hissed when he proposed testing for marriage license applicants, but there was noticeable silence when he mentioned testing of federal prisoners.

"The proposals around immigration and prisoners are to a large extent fueled by racism," said Cathcart. "There is not really a concern for testing immigrants from Ireland. I think the real issue is testing people of color. And it's not lost on them that among federal prisoners there is a disproportional number who are people of color."

"The testing of immigrants would be an ironic sense of xenophobia if it were not so pathetic," continued Cathcart. "[The U.S. has a] higher rate of [HIV] infection than 95 percent of the world. Testing [of potential immigrants] is a way of putting the blame [for AIDS] on the outside...of saying, 'oh it's foreigners.'"

NGLTF's Vaid noted that "they haven't instituted HIV testing for tourists because they want the tourist money."

Vaid expressed concern that in addition to testing potential immigrants, the U.S. government will test immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally but who qualify for amnesty under new immigration regulations. "The amnesty program is going to fall," said Vaid. "We've already gotten calls from people — mostly gay men — planning to come in under that program who are completely petrified about having to take [the HIV] test. The administration hasn't thought through the issues. What about a person from another country? What are they going to do? Ship them back to the other country?"

In the Senate debate on the immigration amendment, Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming), a pro-

Continued on page 12

AIDS Log Still Missing in D.C.

By Nancy De Luca

WASHINGTON, DC — Mystery continues to surround a missing log containing the names of 500 people who had been tested for exposure to the HIV virus. The log, which disappeared from a testing center at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Administration last April, has still not turned up.

Though the existence of such logs violates public policy, records of the names of those seeking testing apparently were kept in an unsecured place by the D.C. center. It was originally feared that the log might be used to blackmail those whose names it contained, but there has been no attempt to publicize the list.

According to Jeff Levi of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, despite continuing fears about manipulation of the log, there have been some positive effects resulting from its disappearance. Levi said Public Health Commissioner Dr. Reed Tuckson has increased efforts to ensure that such logs are never kept. Tuckson has also stepped up pressure for anonymous testing at all sites so as to maintain absolute confidentiality.

According to the New York Times, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department's Division of Internal Affairs has been involved in the search for the log. The Washington Times reports that two clinic officials have been suspended without pay pending the investigation.

—filed from Boston

Frankly Frank



Ellen Shub

BOSTON — U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) at the opening ceremonies for the May 31 AIDS pledge walk, one day after he came out in a Boston Globe interview.

Frank received two standing ovations from the crowd for saying publicly what many in the lesbian and gay community already knew — that he is gay. The first ovation followed mention of Frank by Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn. Making reference to Frank's coming out interview, Flynn said, "There is no Congressman who has been more out front for the needs of the people."

Frank's second standing ovation, which gay Congressman Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) marked as one of the rare occurrences to render Frank nearly speechless, came when he approached the podium. Although Frank thanked the crowd, he did not directly address his public coming out.

After his speech, Frank told GCN his decision to announce his sexual orientation was influenced by the recent scandal surrounding ex-presidential candidate Gary Hart's extra-marital sex life and the revelation that U.S. Rep. Stewart McKinney (R-Conn.) died from AIDS-related complications. McKinney's death led to widespread reports that he was gay.

"I was afraid people would think I'm hiding something," said Frank. So about two months ago, he decided if anyone asked the question directly, he would answer. Frank added he did not think anyone would really be interested in the "social life of a middle-aged politician" and that being gay is not relevant to his job.

—Kim Westheimer

Puerto Rican lesbians report assault by police

Since When is Wearing a Tux on the Subway a Felony?

By Nancy De Luca

BRONX, NY — Two lesbians, wearing tuxedos, are returning with their friends on the subway late at night from a wedding. The one male member of the group starts getting hassled by a group of four men. Four transit police officers arrive and try to eject the friend from the subway car. As the lesbians rise to his defense, explaining that he was being harassed by the other men in the car, transit policemen knock one of them unconscious and beat the other about the face, making a gash which requires stitches. After being taken to the hospital, the two women are charged with second-degree assault — a felony — and menacing.

According to Ermanno Stingo, court monitor for the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Lisa Jiménez and Evelyn Rivera were victims of a homophobic and racist attack. Allegedly, as one of the transit of-

ficers grabbed Rivera by the hair, he shouted, "You spic bitch, you fucking dyke. You want to be a man? I'll treat you like a man."

The incident reportedly occurred at approximately 1 a.m. on the night of December 28, 1986 in the Bronx. Jiménez and Rivera, who are Puerto Rican, were accompanied on the Number 2 train by six other women and one man.

On January 2, 1987, they appeared bruised and battered in Bronx Criminal Court to face charges of assaulting transit officers. Stingo describes the police version of the incident as outrageous. There was no apparent injury to the police, and an officer involved in the reported attack, who was present in the courtroom, towered over the two women.

Says Stingo, "For police to say these two petite women assaulted them is ludicrous.... It was brought out in court that they [Jiménez and Rivera] were brutally

beaten."

The Assistant District Attorney on January 2 requested that Judge Robert McGann accept a plea-bargain arrangement which would have lowered the charges against the women to third-degree assault and eliminated the charge of menacing. McGann denied the request. There have been several delays for procedural reasons, with the next court date slated for June 10.

The New York Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights has requested that Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola initiate an investigation of the actions of the transit police. To date, no such investigation has been authorized. Several other groups, including the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats and the Puerto Rican Defense Fund, have expressed their support for Jiménez and Rivera.

—filed from Boston

news notes

quote of the week

"I have no interest in homosexuals or their filthy, disgusting sex life. Men loving men and women loving women soon would end life on this planet."

—New Hampshire Rep. Mildred Ingram in a February 16 interview with the Concord Monitor. Ingram, who sponsored the recently-passed legislation banning lesbian and gay foster parenting and adoption, said she is not sure how she developed her values. "It just came out of the air," she said. In the interview Ingram also reflected on her aborted career as a vaudeville performer. She left the stage in her late 20s because, "The babies began to come along. I didn't want them raised in a trunk." And she considered herself "too normal" to spend much time with theater people: "They're a breed apart, honey, a breed apart."

retreat for latina lesbians

SAN MARCOS, TX — A retreat for Latina lesbians is scheduled for June 12-14 here reports *Noticias* of Houston. The retreat will offer a variety of activities and workshops with an emphasis on affirming the lives of Latina lesbians in the state of Texas.

The event will be held at Stonehaven Ranch, which is a country space offered for use to women only. For information, write the Lesbiana Latina Retreat Committee (LLRC), P.O. Box 1175, San Antonio, TX 78294, or call (512) 534-3825.

—Wendy Scott

britain's nat'l lesbian magazine folds

EDINBURGH, Scotland — February saw the final edition of Britain's only general-interest lesbian magazine, *Contact*. After two-and-a-half years and 17 issues the editor, Anne Wendell, decided she could no longer put out the paper without assistance, writes Kate Fearnley of *Gay Scotland*.

Contact, which especially tried to reach isolated lesbians, was started by a group of three women. But Wendell eventually found herself writing almost all of the magazine, as well as doing the production, layout and advertising outreach. "Considering we got about 15 to 1600 people reading it every issue, I think it's really terrible, very disappointing, that so few people sent things in. . .," she commented.

In her final editorial, Wendell writes, "Like the few other lesbian publications in Britain's past, which have scraped by, only to disappear as quickly as they arrived, *Contact*'s optimistic aim to be a magazine published both by and for Britain's lesbian community has not been fulfilled."

The magazine was also floundering financially. Wendell said *Contact* had 900 subscribers, but after a point was unable to find new supporters. Obtaining advertising was also difficult, in part because there are so few lesbian businesses, said Wendell.

The loss of *Contact* leaves *Gossip*, from Onlywomen Press, as Britain's only lesbian periodical. *Gossip* is a journal of lesbian feminist ethics.

—Wendy Scott

barbie fuels barbs

PARIS — Racist, anti-Semitic and AIDS phobic sentiments have been fueled by the trial of accused Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie.

According to the Boston *Globe*, on the eve of Barbie's trial, rightwing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen made a series of anti-Jewish statements and attacked people with AIDS. In the past Le Pen's bigotry has been directed primarily towards North African Arab immigrants.

Using the French initials for AIDS (SIDA), Le Pen coined the word "sidaïque." The new word is reminiscent of the French adjective for Jewishness — judaïque. He also called for "sidatoriums" — isolation centers for people with AIDS.

According to numerous French commentators, Le Pen's rhetoric — which focuses on race, ethnicity, contagious diseases and sex — evokes the language of French writings used by the Nazis.

Other events which have coincided with Barbie's trial include anti-Semitic demonstrations in Lyon and Marseilles, racist beatings in several areas of the country and the painting of Swastikas on war monuments in Izieu. Barbie is accused of having deported 44 Jewish children from Izieu, where they had been hiding in a secret orphanage, to Auschwitz.

—Kim Westheimer

the unborn visit the born-again

FRAMINGHAM, MA — The March issue of a "born-again" Christian newspaper called *The Love Express* includes statistics on how many women experience visitations from their aborted fetuses, among other startling revelations. Subtitled "your 'good news' newspaper," *Love Express* reprints results from a study on the long-term manifestations of stress from abortion, conducted by Dr. Anne Catherine Speckhard, Ph.D. of the University of Minnesota.

Speckhard found that 35 percent of the women she studied were visited by the aborted "child." Twenty-three percent suffered hallucinations related to the abortion. More than half of the women had nightmares, almost 70 percent had flashbacks of their abortions. Finally, 81 percent experienced preoccupation with the aborted child.

The report on the study concludes with the statement: "Although 72 percent of the subjects said they held no religious beliefs at the time of the abortion, 96 percent in retrospect regarded abortion as the taking of life or as murder."

The "good news" for March also includes a letter from a doctor who was "free[d] . . . from the act of destroying [a] baby," i.e., performing an abortion, because "God heard my prayers and intervened and took that baby home with Him." The doctor, Marvin E. Eastlund, claims he found an empty uterus where "just hours before there was undeniable proof of a live pregnancy there."

—Stephanie Poggi

aids hospital turns away the poor

HOUSTON — The nation's first AIDS hospital will stop accepting indigent patients because it has lost more than \$2 million caring for AIDS sufferers unable to pay their bills, officials say.

Officials of the Institute for Immunological Disorders, which opened in September, said the policy change would apply only to new patients and not to those already receiving care. In the future, indigent patients who are residents of Harris County will be referred to the Harris County Hospital District.

The highest priorities of the publicly funded hospital is to provide care of the highest quality to its current patients and to continue its research programs directed towards the eventual elimination of the disease, said the institute's statement.

"The need for services by patients who are without health insurance and have no other financial resources has reached a point that threatens the ability of the institute to serve these two priorities," continued the statement.

—Wendy Scott



A condom on the bomb, April 12, 1987, Sydney.

a condom on the bomb

SYDNEY, Australia — Over 250 lesbians and gay men massed behind the banners: "Dykes for Disarmament" and "Gays Against the Bomb," chanting and singing in the April 12 march to break Australia's link in the nuclear war chain.

Enola Gay — Australia's anti-war group for lesbians and gay men — carried their familiar sculpture of a silver bomb broken in two by a large pink triangle. But this year "Put a condom on the bomb, safer sex means everyone" and "Bases out, condoms on! U.S. out rubbers on!" yelled the marchers.

Police estimated that 130,000 people marched in Sydney and 80,000 in Melbourne.

—Kendall Lovett

mixed responses to growing aids epidemic in western europe

PARIS — The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 4,000 Western Europeans have AIDS, according to the New York *Times*. This number is expected to double every 9 to 11 months. The WHO also estimate that half a million to one million West Europeans have already been infected by the virus. "If 10 to 30 percent of the affected people actually develop AIDS, which seems likely, there will be anywhere from 50,000 to 300,000 deaths in Europe during the next five years," according to Jonathan Mann, a U.S. doctor who heads the WHO task force on AIDS in Geneva.

At the end of 1983, 232 cases of AIDS had been reported in the 12 nations of the European Common Market. The numbers at the end of 1986 stood at 3,354. France has the largest number of cases, with 1,221. West Germany has 875, and Britain 686. The incidence of AIDS relative to population is highest in Switzerland, Denmark and Belgium.

Only 17 cases had been reported in Eastern Europe by the end of 1986.

Responses to the disease in Europe have ranged from demands for quarantine of people who test HIV-positive to comprehensive AIDS education campaigns.

The response of the Bavarian state government in West Germany has been the most negative. The central government has backed away from proposed national registration of people testing positive for HIV, but the Bavarian Interior Minister announced in February that testing would become mandatory for prostitutes, prisoners, and some foreigners who wish to live in Bavaria. Gay bathhouses will be banned and those arrested in raids on bathhouses will be tested for HIV. "The state must have the right to break the chain of infection," according to Peter Gauweiler of the Interior Ministry.

Over 10,000 people marched through Munich on April 4 to protest the government's plan, according to the *Star Ledger* of Newark, N.J. Protesters carried banners saying, "We homosexuals protect ourselves — Who's protecting us against AIDS policy?" and "Against the police state — Bavaria is renovating Dachau." Dachau is the site of a former Nazi death camp.

Some conservatives in Sweden and West Germany have demanded that those who test positive for HIV antibodies be tattooed for easy identification. Julien Peto, an epidemiologist at the Institute of Cancer Research in Britain, has proposed that all people should be required to carry cards showing that they have been tested for AIDS. "How many people can honestly say that they would prefer to see AIDS continue to spread until it dominates many people's sexual and social lives, rather than isolating 30,000 homosexuals or drug addicts, and perhaps a further 10,000 who have caught the disease in other ways?" Dr. Peto recently asked in a newspaper column.

On the other hand, British Health Secretary Norman Fowler has called for the creation of hospices to care for people with AIDS. The Dutch government has initiated a massive educational campaign, focusing on safer sex counseling in small groups. The Dutch authorities also dispense disposable syringes, leading to a low rate of HIV infection among IV drug users.

Private groups, gay activists and people with AIDS have also begun taking steps to care for those who are sick and to provide education. The French Help Association, founded by gay people, currently maintains apartments for people with AIDS not tended by friends or family. The private Swiss AIDS Association has developed a new condom and begun marketing it directly in gay bars, clubs and bathhouses.

—Marc Stein

did you see?

BOSTON — Don Feder of the Boston *Herald* graced us with the following op ed piece entitled "Gay Rights Offends" in the paper's May 14 edition:

"Proponents of the [Mass. lesbian and gay rights bill] follow the disingenuous line of reasoning typically employed to advance the cause. Rep. Mark Roosevelt, D-Beacon Hill, the bill's sponsor, assures us it does not declare that homosexuality is 'right or wrong or good or bad. . . ."

When we prohibit public manifestations of prejudice against a certain class of people, by implication we recognize the validity of their status/conduct. In banning bias against blacks, for instance, society does not say: we don't know whether being black is good or bad, but one shouldn't discriminate against individuals of this race. . . .

"The motivation of the bill's advocates should be apparent. Clearly they see nothing wrong with homosexual behavior. . . . Would that they at least had the decency to admit their true position, and cease slinking behind a silly subterfuge.

"The homosexual life-style must not be sanctioned. It is aberrant, promiscuous, and a threat to both the physical and spiritual health of the nation."

Kim Westheimer

The 'Red Tape' Demos — Coast to Coast

Snarling Traffic at the White House

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON, DC — An alliance of gay, lesbian and AIDS activists staged a candlelight vigil outside President Reagan's first major speech on AIDS, blocked traffic in front of the White House, and picketed the world's largest scientific meeting on the illness. The actions, which were coordinated with those in other cities across the U.S. (see story, this page), protested the government's failure to adequately address AIDS. Approximately 300 people participated in each event.

The May 31 vigil was organized by the National Association of People with AIDS at Washington Harbor, outside a benefit for the American Foundation for AIDS Research where Reagan delivered his speech calling for mandatory testing for immigrants and prisoners. (See story, page 1.)

On June 1 at noon, another crowd gathered on Pennsylvania Ave. outside the White House. Sixty-four of the demonstrators, including Larry Kessler, executive director of Boston's AIDS Action Committee and David Scodras, gay Boston City Councilor, were arrested by D.C. police wearing long yellow rubber gloves. One protestor who has AIDS, Lorian Laureano of Houston, collapsed in the heat and was treated at a nearby hospital. Laureano had told vigil participants the night before that, "I am Puerto Rican. I am Catholic. I am gay and I am also a person with AIDS. I have seen too many of my friends die in Houston. Where is my church? Where is my government?"

Later that afternoon, protesters organized by the Lavender Hill Mob of New York City gathered outside the Third International Conference on AIDS at the Hilton. People came from all over

the U.S., including three busloads from Manhattan. Carrying an "AIDS-Gate" sign, Dr. Kenneth Trask of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital charged that "Reagan knew. He's had knowledge of AIDS for four years and has chosen to do nothing about it." Mob spokesperson Bill Bahlman reiterated Trask's statement, saying, "The administration is not doing a goddamned thing."

The AIDS protests in D.C. and around the country are "the beginning of a confrontation that will culminate October 11 at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights," according to AIDS counselor Ronn Rucker of Cincinnati, who serves on the national steering committee for the march. Rucker urged "every gay man and lesbian in the U.S. to attend [the march] to show our resolve in getting proper government action on AIDS."



Pickers outside the III Int'l AIDS Conference, D.C., June 1.

Tangling the Feds in Chicago, S.F. and Boston

By Stephanie Poggi

SAN FRANCISCO — "People are dying from red tape" was the rallying cry at AIDS demonstrations held June 1 in San Francisco, Chicago and Boston. Coordinated with actions at the White House, protesters wrapped themselves in red ribbon and demanded immediate access to promising treatments for AIDS; medical care based on need, not money, for all people with AIDS, ARC or other catastrophic illnesses; and the commitment of the federal government to leave no stone unturned in research efforts.

Organized by Citizens for Medical Justice, the San Francisco protest at the Old Federal Building drew about 60 protesters, eight of whom attempted to enter the building to meet with officials. According to John Belkus, a person with ARC who was among the eight, the group "went from locked door to locked door" until police pushed them back, knocking one person to the ground. Belkus said it was only after seven of the protesters left the site that police decided to arrest anyone, taking in the remaining protester. "They're chicken-shit," commented Belkus.

The Old Federal Building is also the site of a long-running round-the-clock ARC/AIDS vigil. Vigil participants joined the protest, stressing attention needed for prisoners with AIDS and citing a letter they received from a prisoner with AIDS in Vacaville. The prisoner described the lack of health care for PWAs in prison and said the prison's policy is just to let people die.

San Francisco activists also paid an earlier visit to the Burlingame offices of Burroughs-Wellcome, the makers of AZT. The May 28 protest, in which eight people were arrested at a sit-in, charged the com-

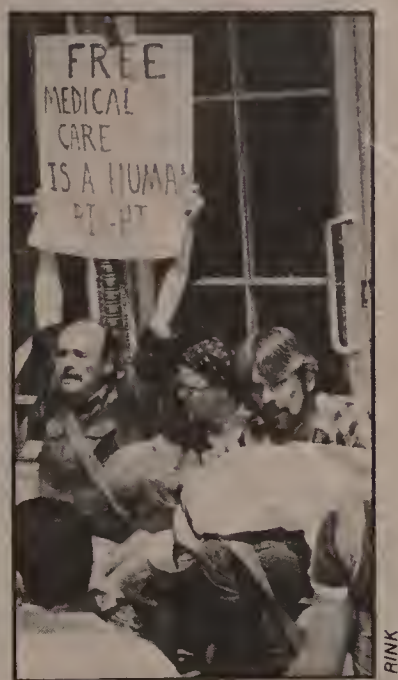
pany with profiteering. The arresting police officers threatened the demonstrators with mandatory HIV testing, according to Belkus. He said police only backed down after they were contacted by the National Lawyers Guild and American Civil Liberties Union.

In Chicago, about a dozen protesters wrapped in red ribbon protested at the Federal Plaza. AIDS activists Irwin Kellers said, "It was an awakening for Chicago. There's never been an AIDS activist political entity before this." Keller added that the action received "tremendous media coverage" with activists outnumbered 4-1 by press.

About 100 red tape picketers in Boston marched outside the John F. Kennedy Federal Building, demanding "money for AIDS research, not the Pentagon," and declaring, "The White House is wasting our time." The picket was organized by Boston's AIDS Action Committee.

A similar action was scheduled in Los Angeles, but GCN was unable to confirm its occurrence at press time.

—filed from Boston



Above: Red-tapers demand health care based on need, not money, at S.F.'s Old Federal Building, June 1.

Below: Marshall Forstein (left) and Boston AIDS picketers chanting "Educate, Don't Regulate," June 1, JFK Federal Building.



Taking a Walk to Raise Money for AIDS

By Christopher Wittke

BOSTON — The crowds of AIDS pledge walkers poured onto the Esplanade at the end of their

News Commentary

trek last Sunday afternoon, May 31. Three thousand of them were registered participants and an



Walkers turn their backs as Dukakis speaks.

estimated two thousand joined unofficially. The sweat poured down their faces as the money poured into the coffers for AIDS care and services. At press time the total — not including matching corporate funds — was well over \$650,000. With blisters on their feet and in unseasonably blistering heat the marchers crossed the finish line.

"You've been telling me that for the last three miles — 'we're almost there!' " one woman gasped to her friends at the

culmination.

"Is that something to drink over there?" a man asked in the general direction of a water fountain.

"Let's do this again tomorrow, shall we?" said one gay man to his friends.

"Oh yes, this was just a rehearsal!" someone replied before adding, "Get me outta' the sun!"

Walker Matthew Martin called the ten kilometer march "Invigorating!" When asked about the intensity of the heat, he said, "That just made things more interesting. There were open fire hydrants near Boston University on Commonwealth Ave. and it was just like a wet t-shirt contest!"

Martin echoed a sentiment which seemed to pervade the ranks of those who walked. In spite of the sobering reasons for coming together there was still a spirit of fun. Of course when so many

members of the lesbian and gay community converge for a common cause there are bound to be a lot of smiles and laughter.

Promotion for the second "From All Walks of Life" event began several weeks ago as pledge pamphlets and television commercials appeared throughout the area. The official logo was a line drawing of about twenty men, women and children gathered for the hike. Although there is one woman-woman couple evident, there are no male couples in sight. The television commercials were also bereft of identifiable gay people, but filled with hordes of local media celebs (Liz Walker, Sunny Joe White, et al). In an effort to establish a fundraiser that was indeed "from all walks of life," and perhaps to avoid the stigmatization of AIDS as a "gay problem," the organizers ran the risk of alienating the very community from which the original grassroots action grew.

But the queers showed up anyway. In spite of the fact that the marketing experts seemed not to think of them as targets for the cause, it was easy to see they were the majority of walkers. Sure, there were many apparently hetero couples, clergy members, men and women with babies on their backs and in carriages, real trouser sunburned under-ten-year-olds, as well as a handful of canine participants. But they were easily outnumbered by the gay men, who in turn appeared to be outnumbered by the turnout from the lesbian community.

Many lesbian and gay walkers were surprised by the appearance

of Gov. Michael Dukakis, who stated in the opening ceremonies, "I hope in a couple years that you'll have someone in the White House who will read the Surgeon General's [C. Everett Koop] report [on AIDS]..." The irony of Dukakis calling attention to President Reagan's disregard of Koop's anti-mandatory testing stance — while ignoring the findings of his own Commission on Foster Care in regard to the placement of children in gay foster homes — was lost on few in the audience. About twenty people, some of whom are members of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC), chanted "Foster Equality!" and then turned their backs on the governor. Others shouted, "Don't mix issues" at the demonstrators.

This astoundingly successful

fundraiser came at the start of a week when the President and Vice-President of the U.S. promoted their own forms of bigotry in the name of "public health" and let slip homophobic comments in full view of the press; when the mandatory testing debate escalated to a fever pitch and the gay community became its target; and when the capital police in Washington, D.C. chose Playtex Living Gloves as their latest uniform accessory for dealing with members of our community (see story on AIDS demos, this page). We have every reason to be proud of the results of the walkathon but the next one should be called "From All Walks of Life...and Every Corner of the Lesbian and Gay Community." It seems as if our fight has just begun.



The 'invigorated' walkers you've heard so much about.

Community Voices

aids in prison: alone & waiting

Dear GCN:

Due to being openly gay and to my political and sexual defiance (controlling my own body) I've spent a lot of time in "protection" (isolation). I've been tested HIV positive and then denied medical care "until the case becomes 'full-blown'..." which means until death is imminent.

Many gay prisoners these days are in this situation. We don't have "AIDS Action Committees" to support us. We often don't even have each other because of a policy of isolation.

Many of us would like to be in touch with someone in the gay community who can understand the homophobia and fears associated with being PWAs. I'm not speaking of sympathy, just some of that kind of support that allows us to feel our natural pride as human beings, and that would allow us to die, if necessary, feeling like part of something larger than ourselves.

Would someone out there be interested in coordinating some kind of penpal service for PWAs in prison? This could mean collecting names sent to GCN by PWAs and making them available to persons who would like to be friends. If so, please write to Mike at the Prisoner Project and let's get started.

Thank you for reading this long letter. I know you must get tons of mail each week (smile). Please forgive my poor spelling and/or sentence structure.

In struggle,
Charlie Willis
Ellis 2 — 333526
Ad Seg — D-I-311
Huntsville, TX 77340

1987 march: energizing and fun

Dear GCN:

Thanks for your recent article on the October Gay/Lesbian March on Washington. We hope everyone will not only consider taking a bus, train, plane or car to Washington for the March, but will actively join in the organizing. There will be a March Planning committee meeting Wednesday, June 10, 7:30, Piemonte Room of Boston City Hall (use back entrance) and a March Community Meeting, Wednesday, June 17th, 7:30, Piemonte Room. Please Join Us. You can reach march organizers by calling 442-9597 or by writing: Boston March on Washington Committee, Suite 790, 104 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114.

This is an important time for gays/lesbians to be visible. We must say loudly and clearly that we will not be silenced by the increasingly hostile social climate. The 1979 Gay/Lesbian March on Washington was an energizing experience for all those who went. (It was, in fact, a lot of fun!) We expect organizing for the 1987 March on Washington to play an important role in building our movement — encouraging us to be proud, visible and active. Though these are surely difficult times for us, we expect the March to be fun. Nancy Wechsler
Somerville, MA

daly: paranoid radicalism

Dear GCN:

Last issue's debate entitled "The Battle for Radical Feminism: Whose Ideology will Reign?" (Vol. 14, No. 42), was so stimulating that I have found it necessary to write in support of Lisa Duggan's position over that of Sara Karon's. Why shall become apparent soon enough.

Duggan seems used to being an outsider on the inside at events such as the one she covered, the April 4 Women Against Pornography, (WAP) conference. Duggan makes it clear that the conference was not a place to openly discuss or debate the issues at hand but rather a rally to hype the claims of WAP itself — the overreaching claim being that anyone who does not agree with WAP is not a Radical Feminist but is instead that loathsome species that allows itself to be used by the Patriarchy: "liberals." I dare say that the only thing missing was a midnight, torchlit parade and bookburning of the works of "weaklings" like Ellen Dubois, Gayle Rubin and Jeffrey Weeks. As kindling they would use magazines like *On Our Backs*.

In spite of the proceedings, Duggan maintains a certain critical perspective, allowing that some of the speakers are expressing valuable and valid thoughts. However when she concludes that the conference had as a hidden agenda a resurgence of lesbian separatism without the lesbianism, she really hits the mark and pins a not very attractive label on this group that claims to be "radical." How "radical" is a group of women who will not utter the word "lesbian" in their midst? Of what possible service is a form of radicalism that cannot see within the women's movement the need to substantively address questions about sex between women, or S/M? (I have no doubt that WAP stands against the S/M movement as I have no doubt that that movement is precisely where the most radical and also most feminist thinking at this time is to be found.) What sort of "radicalism" is it that fears most its own internal critics like Duggan, who points out that WAP allows no questions from the audience? Is this not like the Communist Party of Poland declaring that the workers of Poland are the enemies of Socialism?

In contrast to Duggan's angry but nonetheless balanced appraisal of the WAP conference, we have Sara Karon's testimony of a true believer. Her piece is not so much an analysis of the W.I.T.C.H. (Wild Independent Thinking Crones and Hags) meeting of April 21 as it is a dutiful reporting of the words of the venerable Mary Daly (Daly is also one of the speakers at the WAP conference Duggan reports on). Really we don't hear Karon's voice in this article at all. She is a vehicle for the expression of Daly's position and never takes a critical stand.

Daly's position doesn't sound all that radical to me at all. She explains that women can attain a special state of consciousness that men cannot, that will bring them to "Women's-World." This is a women-only club and the boys can't play. This is really just the same sort of playground rhetoric that the right-wing ministers preach: "Only the chosen go to heaven; we don't like you so you aren't one of the chosen. No heaven for you."

Daly's view of consciousness is also scien-

tifically and philosophically in error. The male and female brains are not significantly different, although when it was thought they were this was used as justification to deny women the right to vote. I know of no argument of any philosophical merit that can hope to establish anything but a *socially constructed* difference in the way men and women think. The argument that women (or men) can attain a sort of "nirvana" must rest on the root assumption that all beings conscious as we are have the capacity to attain this state equally. Human consciousness recognizes no boundaries between sex, race or class. Daly, however, does. Her position and that of other "radicals" like her is a dangerous one. Unfortunately the danger it presents is that of becoming reactionary and not radical at all. I shall quote Daly herself to make my point: "A Radical Feminist must have the capacity for moral outrage for the situation of women as women. This does not deny that certain ethnic and class groups face emergencies beyond the situation in general; however, a Radical Feminist knows that women are always the primary target."

Daly is obviously comfortable marginalizing the struggles against race and class oppression. She doesn't even dignify the struggle against homophobia with that loathsome expression — "emergency" — that she uses to refer to the hundreds of years of struggle against racism and capitalism. Presumably issues of race and class are on the agenda but homophobia is doubtless directed only against men (a naive and dangerous assumption), while the lesbian's real and indeed only struggle is with the Patriarchy...not the Hetocracy.

It is too easy for Daly to whip a crowd up into a separatist frenzy with talk of "Women'sworld." But it is basically empty romanticizing at best or implicit Fascism at worst. It won't help the women and men who must toil in this very real world of ours against the weight of massive racial, class and sexual oppression. It won't even help those white women who have the money to dabble in witchcraft and separatism, for in the end they will be the victims of cults of personality or worse, blind fanaticism.

My question for WAP and for Daly is this: if the strategy is "if you're not with us you're against us," who is the "us" you purport to be speaking about? Is it an "us" that will not allow questions at the floor during meetings? The "us" that backburners the struggle against racism, capitalism and homophobia? Is it an "us" who espouses a radicalism that is too paranoid to hear its own internal critics and has all the trappings of not a "radicalism," but rather a stifling Orthodoxy? Is this us or is it rather a few "them" who profess to be the leaders of a liberation movement? Liberation from what, I want to know, if the struggle for justice for all is abandoned? Perhaps it is a liberation from criticism they want, and from the burden of dealing with a diverse world. This seems to be neither radical nor very feminist to me.

Sincerely,
J. Baptiste-Tarlofsky
Santa Cruz, CA

GayCommunityNews

Cover design
by Dan Mishkind

Photo by Teresa Coates

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

When is 'protection' not protection?

By Rick Anderson, Box 3100, Goodyear, AZ 85338

[The Prisoner Project has received two letters from Rick recently. They seem to contradict each other. Actually they speak very articulately of two sides of a problem we all face, inside and out, again and again: being "out" and helping each other. The first letter, after asking if there is ANY support group ANYWHERE for prisoners with AIDS/ARC (?), continues below, followed by the second.]

The other thing on my mind is that so many of the letters I read in GCN are from Gays in some form of "protective custody." This is a self-defeating position to place oneself in. I would most urgently plead with all Gays in prison, particularly first timers, DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES PLACE YOURSELF IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. First of all, if you do, you will most likely have to spend your entire sentence there, as you have branded yourself [as a queer or as a prison 'snitch' who gave the authorities info against another prisoner: these are people most often in P.C.]. Secondly, it will in all likelihood NOT be what you expected (safe) and you won't have any easier time than if you had stayed on the yard or main-line. I have always been an outfront Gay - when younger I was what one would consider a "flaming faggot". While I have changed a bit as I've grown older, I still am not a body builder or even particularly strong, but have come to believe that it's better to get your ass kicked a few times and get the grudging respect of those for whom fighting for sex every time they want it is not worth it, than to be taken for a pushover. (Another one!) It supports the 'weak, sex-starved, etc.' stereotype, which makes it harder on all of us. I've found that when I do stand up and fight, the contrast between my ladylike appearance and the person fighting for his/her self-respect creates quite a favorable impression on most convicts. I would like to hear from other convicts on this, or from anyone else for that matter.

Community Voices

& when i'm gone?

Dear GCN:

Sorry this is not typed. I'm in segregation. While here I was tested (positive) and from my understanding, TDC [Texas Dept. of Corrections, as the prisoners refer to it] has run out of prison "hospital settings" so that I'm on a waiting list and will move up as PWAs die.

I want and need your [GCN readers] input because our [gay] community doesn't exist in here and for six years my "community" has come through the mails. I feel it's important that we gay men NOT stop our growth, stop our self-examination and become overwhelmed by the prospect of AIDS. In fact, this is exactly why we should be in touch more with each other, so those "coming out", both from behind bars and from behind their own ignorance of themselves or fear of others' meanness, can avoid a deep (and not very conscious) sense of hopelessness and of just not caring.

Here in prison, many are forced to 'come out'. I've seen plenty of 18 yr olds fighting fears of this vicious environment without a trace of understanding. I do what I can do, but that's not enough of course; and when I'm gone?

I'm particularly writing about the lack of response from gay men and looking for some sense of how much we need to both comfort and encourage each other in our battle with AIDS and its possibilities, and to be 'together' with each other as gay men in other senses, developing our sense of community more generally. I would appreciate your thoughts on these things.

Thank you,
Charlie Willis
333526 Ellis 2 (D-2-107)
Huntsville, TX 77340

many have been railroaded

Dear GCN:

I have been inside the walls for 7 years now. During that time I have sincerely endeavored to offer myself and friendship to people who are free.

You, the free people hold a mythical attitude about prisoners, an attitude I find prevalent everywhere. That is, that we as prisoners are not to be trusted or taken seriously. Just as on the outside, there are some here who would exploit a situation, but that does not hold true for all prisoners. There are a lot of us who sincerely seek the friendship of a free person. We've had enough scorn from the "Justice" department. Especially us gay and transsexual prisoners need you.

People on the outside are maybe shocked to hear that the United State Justice System is not perfect. Far from it. A lot of people in here have been railroaded. People need to make an effort and learn how things really work, and readjust their attitudes towards how 'justice' works.

Thank you for reading this, and if you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them if I am able.

Sincerely,
Mel Rhodes
I-A-8 (287630)
Box 520
Walla Walla, WA 99362

thank you aids action

GCN received a copy of this letter sent to Paul Wright, chair of Boston's AIDS Action Committee.

Dear Mr. Wright and Members of the Board:

I am writing in appreciation of your May 26 letter to the Governor urging that he abandon his discriminatory foster care policy. Thank you.

As you may realize, some of us in the "ranks" of the AAC have pushed for this formal action since the policy was announced. It is especially gratifying that the Board of Directors has moved into an AIDS-related and politically loaded area at this point in time. I expect there may be further opportunities to go on record in opposition to governmental policies which discriminate against gay/lesbian people and others, given Mr. Reagan's testing and education plans.

Marea Murray
Allston, MA

how about a mass coming out!

Dear GCN:

First I am going to quote from a tape that Harvey Milk made on Friday, November 18, 1977 (almost a decade ago). "I would like to see every gay doctor come out, every gay lawyer, ... That would do more to end prejudice than anybody would imagine."

I just want to say that I completely agree with Harvey. I think that now in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling and the Meese 'Justice' Department onslaught on civil rights, now is the time for everyone to come out. I have read a lot about the March on Washington this year and I think it is a great idea. How about if at noon on that day everyone comes out! Of course some people might want to come out to friends first before the mass public coming out.

Well, that is my idea. I would very much like to hear people's reactions either sent to me personally or as a letter to the editor.

In gay solidarity,
Stanley Murphy
Box 7689
3405 Deer Park Dr SE
Salem, OR 97310

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks; carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are published on a space-available basis. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the GCN membership. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESAPCED limited to THREE typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

[Second letter, a week later]

Dear GCN,

A follow-up to the last letter I wrote you. I hope you haven't printed it, and if you have, will print this as a clarification. After having mailed the letter I began to reflect and felt in all probability I was hypercritical of those Gays who find themselves in such an intolerable situation that they feel forced to ask for protection. Believe me, I know how intolerable the pressures can become. Fortunately, I have been able to deal with them without having to resort to asking for protection but I have been very lucky in that when faced with a situation that I was unable to handle alone, I would generally be able to find people who would help me. I know that all situations cannot be resolved by merely "fist-fighting" — that many times one is confronted by overwhelming odds and placed in life-threatening situations. A lone Gay in such a situation really has little recourse other than to ask for protection.

Much too often, I have found that Gays in prison just do not support each other. There are many reasons for this: out and out jealousy, being undercover and not wanting to associate with other Gays for fear of exposure, racial differences, and so on. I have found that it usually only takes one Gay to serve as a catalyst or mixer or introducer to begin to get the Gays together and form a somewhat united group. It has been my experience that the more open one becomes in a united manner, the greater acceptance you will receive from the other prisoners. This usually works in reverse where the prison administration is concerned, but I have never cared too much about what they thought, just as long as I have the respect of the other convicts.

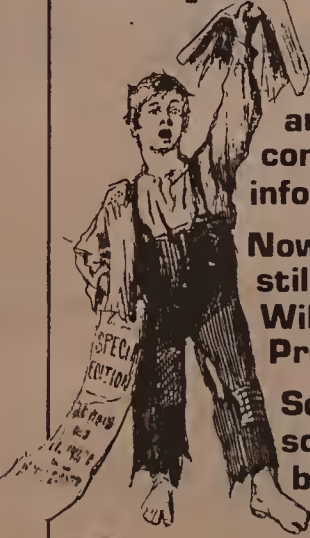
I have found that one of the best ways to get respect from the other convicts was to become involved in sports. Fortunately I've always been rather athletic and have been able to convince other flaming faggots that if I could do it, they sure as hell could. I've organized baseball teams, relay teams, cheer leading squads, etc. But you've got to do this in a campy manner. Now we always went out to win whatever we were involved in, but doing it in a manner that, even though we usually took 2nds and 3rds, we were fun to play with. That changes a lot of opinions.

I feel I need to repeat myself. Gays must support each other. In so many instances I have found this to be the only solution. The administration won't support you. Every time I have gotten into a physical confrontation in prison with other inmates which ended up in disciplinary court, I was treated more harshly than the "straight" because the administration felt I was "out of bounds" for having the gall to physically resist sexual assaults. Like I said, I don't give much of a damn what the administration thinks, but each fight I got into did gain me respect among at least some of my fellow convicts and they're the ones I have to live with. That's what matters.

If a new queen comes on the yard, introduce yourself. Let her know she's not alone. Let her know what's going on, and if you see her heading for trouble, say something. This doesn't always have to be 'physical' help. If you're in the right position of knowing how things go, you can do a lot. You'd be surprised how much it can do for you to feel yourself part of a caring community. That's just what we need to be — A COMMUNITY — not just a bunch of back-stabbing bitches. We get enough of that from the straights. For those of you who are bothered by the use of the feminine pronoun, I make no apologies. You live in your world, we live in ours. I do love you all, though, in the communal sense. Please try to do the same.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

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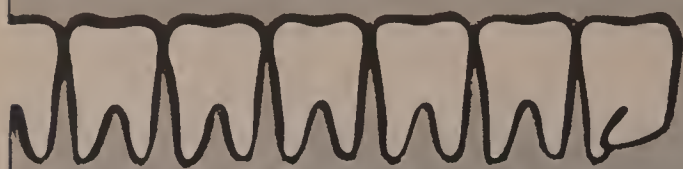
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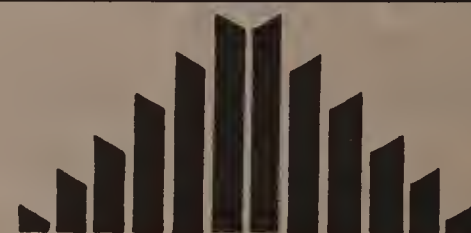
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Painter avoided using pink during art school Jackson's Sensual Images

By E.G. Martin

Unknown artists have a difficult time getting their work shown anywhere, but a gay artist would seem to have an added burden. But that's apparently not the case with Cambridge artist Jim Jackson whose work will be a central attraction at the "Erotica" show, June 6-July 3, at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery, 130 Newbury St., Boston.

"The hard part has been finding a place," Jackson said recently. "There are far more good artists than there are good places to show. So, a lot of good people wind up showing in restaurants or bars. I don't feel bad about that." Jackson recently had a successful showing at the Fritz Lounge, 26 Chandler St., Boston.

"I don't think my work and the style in which I'm working is typical of what people would say 'gay art.' I'm not doing highly refined, sexy images out of 'International Male,'" Jackson said with a smile.

Actually, Jackson, a sculptor and painter, has described his work as sensual and a mix of male and female imagery. That gender mixing is what caused the Rotenberg Gallery's director Amnon Goldman to include Jackson's work. The show will be "very much centered around Jim's work," Goldman said.

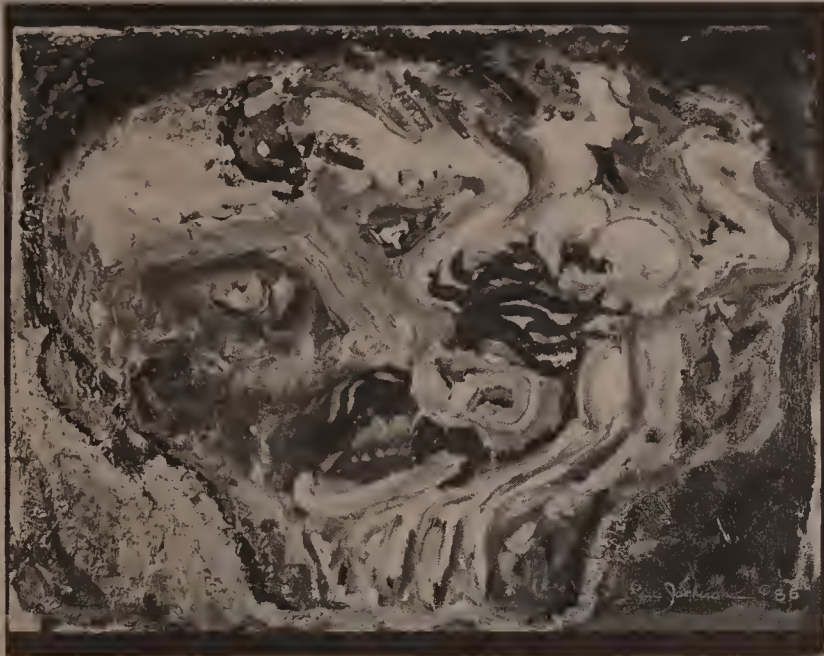
"They're not stereotypical images of sensuality," Goldman said. "You get the feeling that he was playing and pushing with the paint, allowing the image to come from underneath."

The mixed images may be the closest thing to a political statement that Jackson wishes to make. He said the gesture attacks the "fear of being like a woman."

"It's the feminine side to men that definitely needs to be celebrated," he said. Jackson has taken pro-feminist stands before. In 1981, he helped produce the highly acclaimed "Stale Rolls and Tight Buns: the Image of Men in Advertising," for the Cambridge-based Organization Against Sexism in Institutions and Stereotypes (OASIS). He has also been involved with the Radical Fairy movement.

"That group has given me permission to explore feminine aspects of myself that come out in the art work," he said. "Although I don't do drag, I get quite a charge out of androgynous figures."

Jackson says, "It doesn't pay to get labelled as a gay artist, but if I want to do something that's pro-gay or erotic, I will."



"Diving Mystic" by Jim Jackson

A graduate of the University of Texas, and the Pratt Institute Graduate School, Jackson knows firsthand of the homophobia of art schools and the art world.

"Much of my life was spent with a great deal of internalized homophobia," he said. In art school, he avoided creating male figures, using pastels and painting with pink.

"I came out and got more comfortable with being gay," Jackson recalled, "[but] it was a long, slow process."

In fact, he was living with a woman when he first met men who were comfortable with being gay. He was being trained as a volunteer for the "Community Sex Information" telephone hotline in New York in the early 1970s. He went into the program with an "unspoken agenda" — the first steps toward realizing his own sexuality.

An unexpected result of the training was his discovery that there was a definite need for realistic genital models.

"They needed better, realistic genital models for teaching sexual anatomy classes," he said. "They did very realistic elbows and knees but when it came to penises and vaginas, they tended to smooth them over until they were unidentifiable. They [sex educators] were afraid of producing a sexually arousing object and violating the obscenity laws in some areas."

Seizing upon the opportunity, he started making exact replicas of genitalia which have been used for Planned Parenthood programs, hospitals, medical schools, county health programs and sex therapy offices. He has been doing it full-time since 1977, and has been

recognized internationally for the quality of his work.

This intense work on the primary objects of masculinity and femininity has led to his exploration of androgynous themes.

"That's been the great freedom," he began, "To suddenly not have to worry about whether it's male or female, masculine or feminine, and allow the forms to be what they want to be in creating them — a sort of dialogue between the materials, myself and the muse."

In addition to the Rotenberg show, some of Jackson's sculptures will be on display at the J. L. Becker Gallery, 453 Commercial St., Provincetown, Mass., until mid-October.

Works by sculptor Joseph Letitia and Harold Rovish are also slated for exhibition at the Rotenberg Gallery. Tovish will be showing drawings. The other artists scheduled are: painter Barbara Aparo; sculptor Chris Burr; sculptor Richard Creighton; sculptor Richard Duca; painter Sam Hershey; painter Zygmund Jankowski; sculptor Miriam Knapp; sculptor Marianna Pineda (showing drawings); painter Judi Rotenberg; photographer Peter Ruchman; mixed media artist Peter Russel; and painter Lucette White.

Gay and lesbian artists will be celebrated in two other local June shows. The Wet Gallery, 542 Columbus Ave., (267-4468) will open "No More Myths" on Wednesday, June 10. "A Separate Peace" will open at Gallery 69A at 69A Hammond St., Worcester (756-6681) on Sunday, June 21.

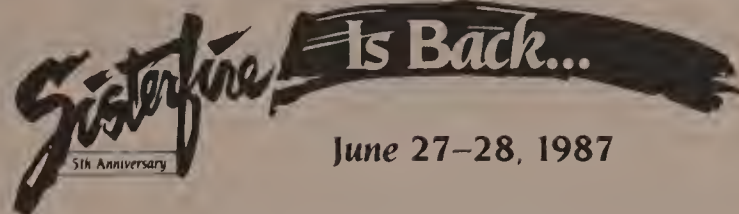
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A dept. fundraiser for the firefighters?

Convicted Firefighters Face Dept. Charges

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Two firefighters who were found guilty of assault and battery against two lesbians (see GCN, Vol. 14, No. 42) will face charges from the Fire Department as a result of those findings.

According to Captain Matthew Corbett, a spokesperson for the fire department, Edward Gottwald and John Sylvester could possibly be suspended or dismissed from their jobs due to Judge Charles Johnson's May 14 decision. Corbett refused to address the specifics of charges against Gottwald and Sylvester because "the charges are still being drafted and they haven't been served."

Gottwald and Sylvester are appealing Johnson's ruling. A court date before a six-person jury has been set for August 10.

In a related development, a firefighter who wishes to remain anonymous notified GCN about a "friendship party" for Gottwald, Sylvester and Patrick Ellard to be held on June 20 at Perkins Post in South Boston. Ellard, who was present at the event which led to the charges against the other two firefighters, was acquitted of assault and battery charges against a gay man in that incident.

According to the anonymous firefighter, the \$15 a person event is a fundraiser to cover

legal expenses for Gottwald, Sylvester, and Ellard. Flyers for the event were posted on Boston Fire Department bulletin boards. Corbett said that following GCN's inquiry about the flyers, they were all removed. "I wasn't aware of [the flyers] until yesterday," said Corbett. "I had them removed. They shouldn't have been up on the bulletin boards. We don't sanction friendship parties for anyone."

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee is considering organizing a demonstration outside of Perkins Post. For more information, call (617) 661-7737.



Saturday, June 20, 8 P.M.

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By Terry Baum

The Homomonument, which will be erected in the heart of Amsterdam, commemorates the many lesbian and gay victims before, during and after World War II. Designed by Karin Daan, it will consist of three pink marble triangles, each 30 feet long. Together, they constitute a bigger triangle of 90 feet. One of the triangles will end in the canal water of the Keizersgracht. Another triangle will be three feet high and can be used as a platform during rallies and performances. With trees planted around and between the marble triangles, the monument will become an integral part of its surroundings.

In November 1986 I interviewed Karin Daan in her home, a former warehouse converted into a spacious loft apartment, looking out on the Brouwersgracht, one of the quieter canals. Also present was Helene van Meurs, a mutual friend of mine and Karen's. Helene is a well-known actress and a lesbian activist.

TERRY: I had never heard of the Homomonument until I was at the Women's Cultural Festival last year [in Amsterdam] and I saw the model, which I thought was wonderful. And when I went back and told people about it, even gay activists — of course I think the West Coast is kind of shut off — nobody knew about it. Whose idea was the monument in the first place?

KARIN: I think it was a commission of some people from the C.O.C., the national organization for homosexuals. They planned to create a monument for homosexuals in Holland, but also in the world, and put it somewhere in Amsterdam. And they spoke with the city and the city said, "Okay, you can do it at the Museumplein." Now, that's the only big space in Amsterdam. But C.O.C. said, "No, we don't want it there. We want a more cosy place somewhere else." And so they chose the Westermarkt and that's a beautiful place, one of the best places in Amsterdam.

And then they planned to make a competition for the design. And some people asked me, "Why don't you do it?" I am an environmental designer. I've studied it and I'm one of the few women in Holland who are doing that. So I said, "Okay, I'd like to do this." So they asked three people, Wim Schippers, a famous artist in Holland who's doing things for TV. He's very nice. Very original. And they asked another woman. And one day I heard that they chose my design.

TERRY: What were the other designs like?

KARIN: I haven't seen them. There was a plan to make a little exhibition, but the other two didn't want it.

"A Great Longing for Friendship"

TERRY: When you were working on your design, were you inspired by other monuments?

KARIN: I was inspired by the square, the place, the total location. I liked it and I have a feeling for that kind of thing. And I'm a lesbian so I'm very inspired by the theme.

TERRY: It's a very simple and beautiful design and I think it would be very moving to see it. What do you want people to feel when they're there?

KARIN: There are three elements in it. There is one triangle near the water. It is just about water level. So you go a few steps down to the water and you can sit there, just being alive. You can love each other or think or be very down or... I don't know. But it's just living. And the other element, it's about three feet high. And you can spring on it, you can jump on it. It's a kind of action..

TERRY: You can jump on and off of it?

KARIN: Yeah, and that's a symbol for strength, for future. And then there is another element and it's just in the pavement. It's a triangle with one phrase of a poem from a Dutch poet. He's homosexual. It's a very strong test. "A great yearning for friendship." [Note: In Dutch, the word "friend" which can be masculine or feminine, also means someone with whom you have a sexual love relationship.] It's full of meanings. We can recognize it. But the other people, the heteros, also. I like that. It has to do with the great organization of our lives. I think that's important. For us and also for other people.

Everyone can sit there and have an impression of it and do with it what they want. It's pure and not aggressive, not "Here am I and I don't like you." Everyone can sit there and think about it. Or when you don't want to think about it, you don't need to. I like it. It's just being there. The poet is a very famous columnist in Amsterdam. He writes about the small things of life. So that's carved in the stone in classical letters. I think it [will] be beautiful.

TERRY: Somebody told me the different triangles point to different places.

KARIN: That's a coincidence. I didn't know, but the people who were sitting in the jury, they saw it. The element from the past, with the text on it, is pointing to the Anne Frank House. The element in the water, that represents just living now, is pointing to the monument at the Dam [which celebrates liberation after World War II]. And the element that symbolized action points to the C.O.C. That's so strange. It's just like you're making your home and you put in the tables and it's just fitting! All things are fitting together.

TERRY: When I first saw the design, I thought it was very brave, in terms of all the graffiti, to put a pale pink marble triangle in the ground. What do you feel about that?

KARIN: I think when it was not marble, when it was just concrete, then it was a very big problem. But I think when it's marble, it's so beautiful. I'll show you. [She goes to get a sample.] I think people will think it's beautiful too. You never know. But a horizontal flat is not so dangerous as a vertical wall. But in Amsterdam, it's a problem. Everything is full of it. All the things I make are a target for it.

TERRY: That must be very painful. I have a friend visiting from New York, and she's very upset by all the litter and graffiti here. She says it doesn't matter in New York City because it's so ugly that all the garbage just blends in. But since Amsterdam's so beautiful, it makes her very angry.

Is there anywhere on the monument where it says, "To homosexual victims of oppression?"

KARIN: I don't know. But I think when it is there, because it's pink marble, pink triangles, everyone in Holland knows what these are nowadays.

HELENE: Especially as one of our members of Parliament is a lesbian and has been wearing a pink triangle for the first time. It's been in all the papers. That gave it a lot of publicity.

TERRY: In the U.S., I would say probably many homosexuals wouldn't know what it meant.

KARIN: It's a sign from the Second World War. The Jewish people had a double yellow triangle and the gypsies a brown one.

HELENE: There were about 12 different triangles worn in the concentration camps.

TERRY: It's kind of nice that we ended up with pink. It's so frivolous.

KARIN: It's a sign of strength, of pride. I have one myself. I'm proud of it. I'm strong. They don't touch me.

TERRY: We hope.

KARIN: Yeah, we hope. It can always be difficult. In the world of the arts, it's not a problem. All the artists are homosexual. But the other men and women are very...

Some Critical Reactions

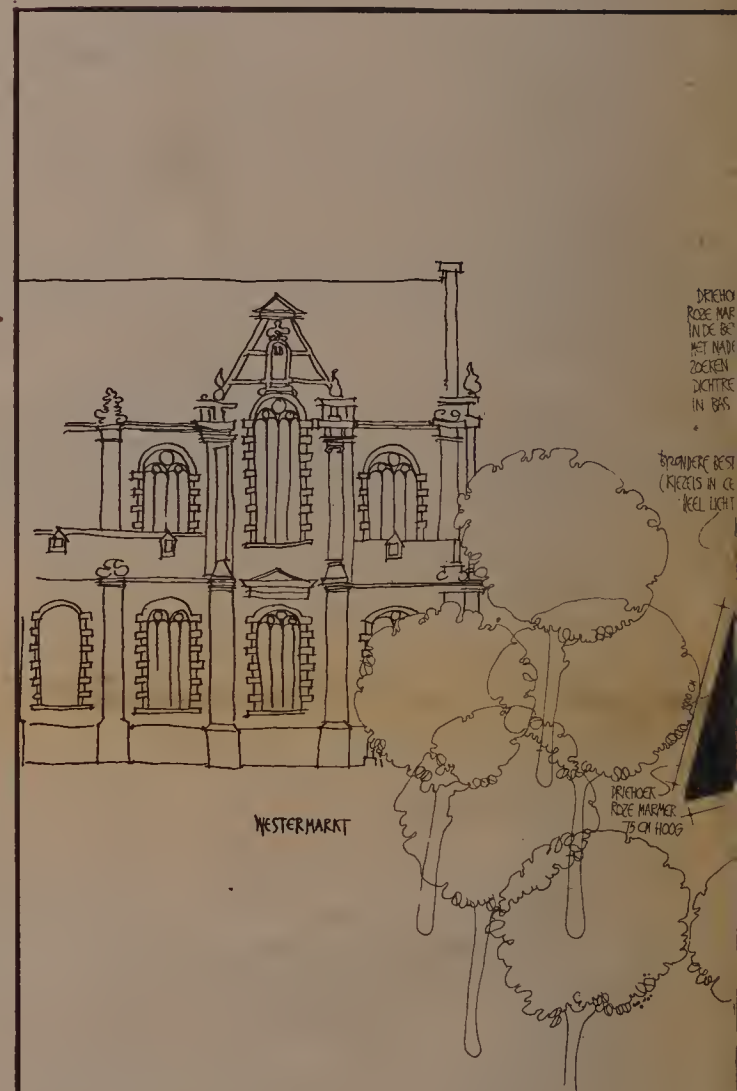
TERRY: Was there any controversy about the monument? Were there people in Holland who said they didn't want to honor homosexuals?

KARIN: I had a strange experience. When I made the design, I went to the man who makes blueprints. I was going there for years. And he said to me, "What does it mean, Homomonument?" And I said, "It's what you see. A monument for homosexuals." And he said to me, "Since when does the minority dictate to the majority where something has to be?" I was very angry.

TERRY: Has there been any public protest?

Amsterdam C Gay and Les

An Inter Environmen Karin



KARIN: No. Only in the world of the homos. Before, some people were saying "We want a disco, not a monument." And I think women, they are thinking so. The women don't want the monument. They want a disco. It's weird.

HELENE: It's not very well known that even female homosexuals were brought into concentration camps. It's more men. I think that might have something to do with it.

TERRY: Is this supposed to be just a monument to the victims of World War II?

KARIN: No. It's for everybody. It's also for the future, for coming out.

TERRY: In a way, lesbians have been less oppressed than gay men because we've been more invisible, but

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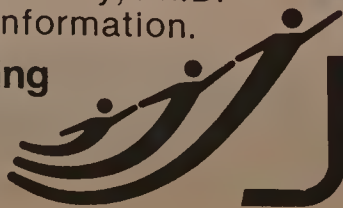
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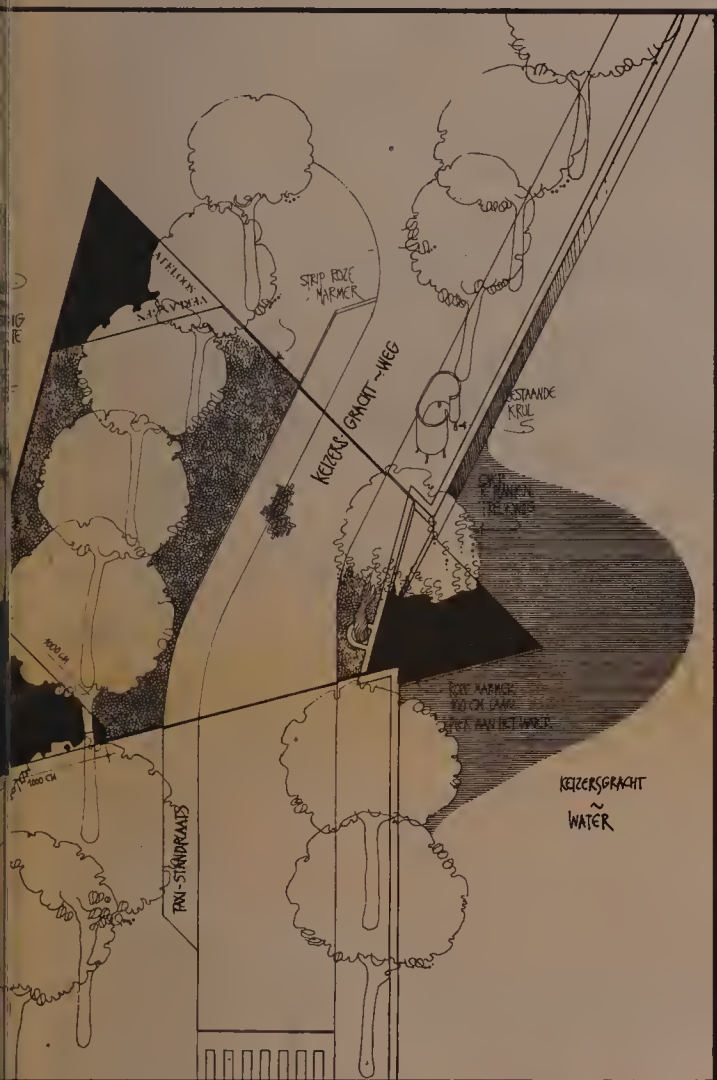
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HELENE: There's another thing, another sting beneath the grass and that is that women don't like other women to achieve, to be extraordinary.

KARIN: I think she knows it but she doesn't want to hear it. She's very happy now that I'm alone. It's no problem. Now she loves me. But she doesn't like those kinds of things. It's a little bit dirty and strange and you can't talk about it. If I came home tomorrow and said I will marry a man, she would be happy. That's the one thing she wants for my life. But it will never be.

POSTSCRIPT: The ground was broken for the building of the Homomonument on April 29, 1987.

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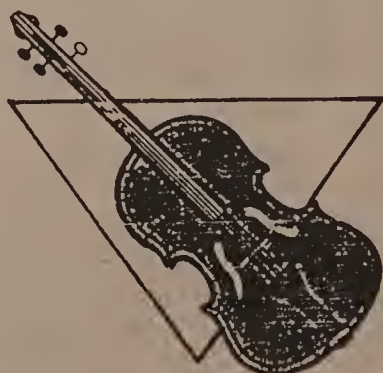
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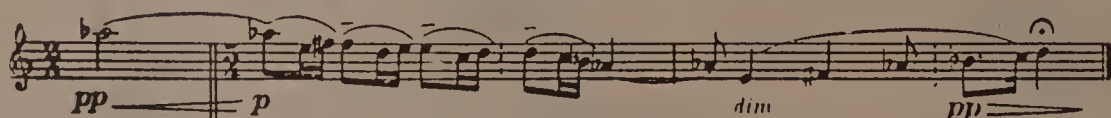


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Reagan's Speech

Continued from page 1

nent of wide-spread HIV testing and author of the amnesty legislation, acknowledged that "detention [and] quarantine [are] where we are headed here."

A population of guinea pigs

There is no way that prisoners test results are going to be kept confidential, said Edward Koren, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union Prison Project. "If they take all the people who test HIV positive and segregate them everyone is going to know why. They will be making them into pariahs. That's probably what's going to happen — segregation of all people who are HIV positive." In fact Reagan's domestic policy adviser Gary Bauer has called for such segregation.

Denise McWilliams, who heads GLAD's AIDS Law Project, said she is troubled by the possibility

that "they are testing prisoners to ID those who are HIV positive. I wonder if the population is being set up as guinea pigs for testing vaccines."

Adding to McWilliams' fears was a June 4 article in the *Boston Globe* which said that despite evidence that vaccines currently being tested on chimps have not been effective, plans are underway to test "American volunteers this year or next." The *Globe* article said the U.S. "government has already drawn up plans specifying the kind of volunteers needed, including federal prisoners."

Such a testing program involving prisoners is bound to involve an "element of coercion," said McWilliams. "It can be as subtle as an inmate's belief that as long as he cooperates he will receive better treatment or as blatant as a sentence reduction."

"The other troubling thing is the concept of identifying who is HIV positive so that the inmate's spouse can be notified," said McWilliams. In a June 3 New York *Times* article Bauer is paraphrased to say that the "spouse of an infected prisoner has a right to know of the inmate's condition. If the inmate refuses to share such information, the Federal Government should probably do so."

"This is a breakdown of doctor/patient confidentiality," said Cathcart. "Doctor/patient confidentiality is somewhat deep-rooted. Prisoners are an easy way to start if they're going to be allowed to spread people's antibody status to other people."

While Cathcart said "it is imperative that people who are antibody positive share this information" with people with whom they are having sex or using intravenous drugs, he stressed the need for education and health resources. Someone who is a heroin addict may very well share dirty needles if that is all that is available to him or her, said Cathcart. But instead of testing and ostracizing that person, the government should set up drug rehabilitation centers. The government has to "create a social climate where people do not feel like they will be socially ostracized if they share the information [that they are HIV positive]."

The cost of testing

According to CDC figures, it costs approximately \$50 to test a person for the HIV antibody. This does not include any pre- or post-counseling services. So if the government tested all federal prisoners, an estimated 43,000, and all potential immigrants whose numbers exceed 530,000, it would cost the government approximately 30 million dollars. If testing is to include the more than one million people in Veterans Administration hospitals and immigrants seeking amnesty, the cost of the program would be staggering. Critics of mandatory testing point to this as a waste of money which could be going to AIDS education and research.

The Senate vote

In addition to voting for testing immigrants, the Senate appropriated \$30 million to provide AIDS-related drugs such as AZT to people who could not afford them, \$20 million for AIDS education, \$20 million to augment state anonymous testing programs and seven million dollars for "minority outreach for AIDS education." Many liberal supporters of the bill said the financial allocation outweighed any possible damage done by mandating testing for immigrants since Reagan has already pledged to do so with or without Congressional approval.

Other senators claimed to be following the advice of the scientific community. Steve Snider, an aide to Senator Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) said Weicker is opposed to mandatory testing but that testing of potential immigrants is "simply considered a different issue." Snider pointed to the Public Health Service recommendation on this issue as justification of Weicker's vote. "If you're going to say the issue should be ruled by scientific precision, not emotionality, you follow up on the recommendations of the scientific community," said Snider.

"It shows a horrifying lack of leadership in the Senate that after years of silence, Reagan makes an at best useless and probably harmful proposal and the Senate falls in line," commented Cathcart.

The vote was seen as a victory for Jesse Helms (R-No. Carolina) whose legislation mandating testing for marriage license applicants was previously defeated.

—filed from Boston

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Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



WHAT'S "AGE" GOT TO DO WITH IT???

In the 7 or 8 yrs I've been doing this prisoner project, I've seen more penpal ads than you can shake a stick at, asking for a penpal 'between 18 and 30'. Some of the letters I'd like to answer myself, but can't, being as I'm over 30 (and can't keep up with answering the project's mail anyway, even just reading it!). Still, it feels crummy, to be told 'you're too old to write' (or fuck, or whatever). Let's hear your feelings about this 'ageism' business. Why does it make such a difference to you? Or if it doesn't, why not?!

I'd like to try putting together a 'Freedom's Just' on this sometime soon. Thanks. Mike.



Life has been many ups and downs. A true friend who can understand the need for a sympathetic ear would be a great help right now. I won't disappoint you in writing. Joey GRIER, PO Box 3300, Bldg 28 Rm 205, Goodyear AZ 85338.

Political Gay Youth Into Sunshine, the beach, frisbee, and wondering about Boston. Please write Ron ROUSSEAU, 171281, 2400 S. Sheridan, Muskegon MI 49442.

Serving time in MINNESOTA and would like someone to write and WARM ME UP. I'm in for a non-violent 'crime'; and I like CW music, travel, children and am a homebody by nature. Tom PONCHIK, 02284-041, Box 4600, Rochester MN 55903.

I love to write letters, read, love music of all kinds and I definitely love sex, which I would discuss in more detail with a penpal. Please send a stamped envelope if possible (money is rare as hen's teeth in here). Kenneth SHERRY, 6319 (E-2-W), Box 473, Westville IN 46391.

Homosexuals in Florida really catch hell down here. That's why I'm in 'protection' (isolation). Please write. This is incredibly lonely. I like photos too if you have one. Thanks a lot! Ron ERVIN, 021017, Rt 2 Box 13A, Immokalee FL 33934.

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I don't get out of here until 1990 or so, and I don't need to tell you that that is a long time to be isolated from gay people on the streets. I'm looking for a good friend to write and be in touch. Steve GRUMPL, 180-802, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

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Gay prisoner, getting down to the wire (getting out soon), due for work release this summer if I can find a job (anywhere!). I love the out doors, am a building custodian by trade but will wash dishes if I have to. Work does not scare me. Feel free to write with tips or friendly help. James R. CONE, 277249 Alpine, PO Box 37, Littlerock WA 98556.

Latin New Yorker, bisexual, seeking companion who is willing to understand me the way I would with him. Pictures exchange possible. Jose AROCHO, 85A 2109, Box B-E2-21, Dannemora NY 12929

Need sincere for real guy, any age, race or creed, who is interested in a for real guy (me) to share friendship with. I hope to be 'coming out' next year. Please write. Hogan GREEN, 83766, Max-ADC-Bik 3, Tucker AR 72168.

Tall, Black, Handsome, Muscular Male would like to correspond with any and all pretty transvestites or effeminate men of all races. Photo appreciated but not necessary. Lester WOOTEN, D-38174 (I-131-L), Box 4000, CMF South, Vacaville CA 95696

WANTED: Contact with kindred spirit predicated upon establishing rapport and friendship. 31 yr old Black male prisoner, sense of humor, diverse interests, cerebral, articulate, avid reader, self-educated. Gender, race, age irrelevant. Cliff BENNETT, 169-430, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

This institution won't let us write other prisoners. I have 3 very close friends who I am wanting to keep in contact with who are in other prisons at this time. Could somebody out there act as a go-between for us? I could take care of postage. This is really important to me. Thanks. James BAYT, C-18132, Box 1902-A, 1A-203, Tehachapi CA 93561.

24, into flowers, nitting and drawing. Write hot sexy letter. Tell me what you'll do to me. Davy SOMMERS, 192-347, Box 5500, Chillicothe OH 45601.

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, 930 F Street, NW no 514, Wash., DC 20004. Black/Out: Because silence is costly.

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, no. 263G, SF, CA 94114. (V15.18)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)



CALENDAR

**June 9
to
June 19**

6 saturday

Boston — Something About the Women interviews **Patty Larkin**. WMFO, 91.5 FM. 11am.

Boston — **Chemical Free Dance Party** (no alcohol, no smoking). Hill House, 74 Joy St. 9pm-1am. Info: 266-0314.

Portland, ME — **Lesbian and Gay Pride Day**. Info-line: (207) 883-6934.

Salem — North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance annual **Spring Auction**. Old Town Hall. Preview 6pm, auction 7-11pm. Info: 639-1398.

South Hadley — **Alix Dobkin** in a woman-only concert. Pratt Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College. \$7-\$10. Info: (413) 586-8718.

7 sunday

Boston — Community forum on **lesbian pornography** sponsored by the Bad Attitude Collective. Panel and audience discussion. UMass-Boston, Arlington St. Noon-3pm.

Gloucester — **Wild Women Whale Watch**. Meet at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Cambridge. 11:30am. Reserve by June 1: Katy, 566-0183.

8 monday

Cambridge — **Lesbian Rap** and Pride march info. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — "Personal and Community **Self-Defense**: How to not be a victim," a public forum sponsored by the lesbian/gay Alliance. Northeastern Univ., Eli Center, rm. 356. 7-9pm. Info: 265-0348.

Cambridge — **Boston Bisexual Women's Network**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. All women welcome. 7:30pm. Info: 566-1567.

9 tuesday

Boston — "The **Politics of AIDS**: The genocide of a community," a town meeting sponsored by Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance and Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Faneuil Hall. 7:30pm. Candlelight march to follow. Info: 265-0348.

Boston — Classical Progressives, a concert by vocalists **Nancy Armstrong** and **Ken Fitch** to benefit the AIDS Action Committee. Emmanuel Church, 14 Newbury St., \$10. Info: 437-6200.

10 wednesday

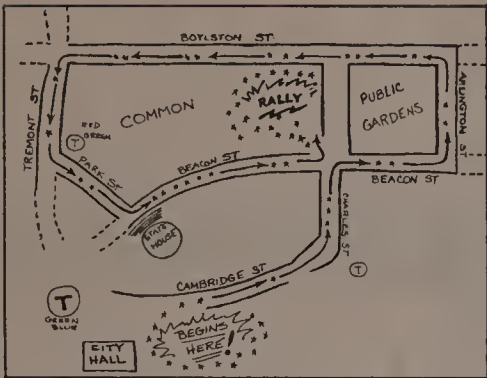
Cambridge — **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — "The **Human Factor**," a lecture on AIDS by Marshall Forstein. Trinity Church Parish House, at Clarendon and Boylston Sts. 7:30pm. Free. Info: 536-0944.

Boston — Steering committee meeting for the October **March on Washington** for lesbian and gay rights. Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall (rear entrance). 7:30pm. All welcome. Info: 442-9597.

Boston — **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — "No More Myths," a gay/lesbian **artists' exhibit**. The Wet Gallery, 542 Columbus Ave. Info: 267-4668.



Boston's 1987 Pride March route, 13 saturday

Boston — "Hot, Horny & Healthy," a sexy **safer sex workshop** by the AIDS Action Committee. Info: 437-6200.

12 friday

Worcester — **Virginia Rubino** in concert with sculpture-artist Jamie Johnston. Noh Place Artist's Co-op, 117 Lovell St. 8pm. \$3. Also June 13. Info: 393-7632.

Boston — Boat Cruise to benefit **Minuteman Classic**. \$10. Tickets available at Fritz, Ramrod, Uptown and the 1270.

Dorchester — **The Dance Brigade** at the Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Rd. \$10 more/less. To benefit GCN and the Pledge of Resistance. Childcare provided. Info: 426-4469.

Randolph — **Lavender Dance** sponsored by Gay Professional Women. Randolph Country Club. 8pm. Members, free. Guests, \$5. Info: Christine Burton, 328-5685.

Boston — **Girth & Mirth** monthly meeting for big gay men and their friends. Hill House, 74 Joy St. 8-10pm. Info: 566-6530 or 757-5432.



Right Time, 13 saturday

Boston — **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 62 Berkeley St. near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Anytime after 6pm. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Cambridge — **Lesbian Pride Concert** presented by Daughters of Bilitis featuring **On Second Thought** and **Nan Donald**. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 277-8150.

13 saturday

Boston — **Lesbian and gay pride march** through Boston. Meet at 11am at the City Hall Plaza, Government Center. March begins at noon. Info: 267-2113.

Boston — **Dance Party** after Pride, featuring Right Time and Dean and the Weenies. City Hall, Government Center. \$5 in advance, \$7 at door. To benefit GCN and the Pledge of Resistance. 9pm. Info: 426-4469.

Dorchester — **Out in Dorchester**. Dorchester GALA's fourth annual Gay Pride Celebration. 8pm. Whitton Hall. Rent donation and cash bar.

Boston — **Pride Rally Broadcast** with Jim Vetter. WMBR 88.1 FM. 11am.

Boston — "The Road to Summer Fun," a **dance** to benefit AIDS Action Committee.

Center for the Arts, Cyclorama Hall, Tremont St. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. Info: 437-6200.

Boston — **Interfaith Gay/Lesbian Pride Day Service**. Monica Styron, guest speaker. Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St. 9:30am. Interpreted for hearing impaired. Childcare provided. Info: 1-537-6080.

Boston — **Gay/lesbian programming** on WGBH/Channel 2: *We Are Family*, 10pm, and *Summer Kiss*, 11:30pm.

Boston — **Amethyst Women Lesbian Pride Dance**. YWCA, 141 Clarendon St. 9pm-1am. \$6 more/less. Drug- and alcohol-free.

Springfield — **Women's Leather Night** sponsored by SHELIX, lesbian s/m, pro-sex support group. The Pub in the Quarry, 382 Dwight St. 10pm. All women welcome. Cover charge.

14 sunday

Boston — "AIDS: Accidental Death or Deliberate Murder," a **lecture** by Nathaniel Lehrman. Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. 11am. Free. Children's program. Info: 266-6710.

Boston — Peter Stickel interviews **Larry Kessler** on Boston's Other Voice. WROR 98.5 FM. 12:30am, Monday morning.

Boston — **Memorial Service and Dedication** for **Gerald Flynn**. Fenway Victory Gardens. 1pm. All welcome.

15 monday

Worcester — **Virginia Rubino** performs on keyboards and vocals. Coffee Kingdom, 2 Richmond Ave. 8pm. Info: 755-8936.

17 wednesday

Boston — Community meeting concerning the October **March on Washington**. Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall (rear entrance). 7:30pm. All welcome. Info: 442-9597.

18 thursday

Boston — Public Safety Committee of Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance fundraising party to **support survivors** of homophobic violence. French Wall's home, 7 Columbus Sq. 7pm. Info: 236-1641.

Northampton — SHELIX **lesbian s/m support** group. 8-10pm. Newcomers welcome. Info: SHELIX, P.O. Box 416, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060.

Cambridge — **United Fruit Company** presents a "raucous, bawdy gay political comedy review," *I Am What I Wear*. Alley Theatre, 1253 Cambridge St. Through June 21. 8pm. \$6-\$10. Info: 547-7728.

19 friday

Provincetown — Fifth annual **Lesbian Whale Watch**. Proceeds to benefit NYC Lesbian Herstory Archives. 2:30pm. \$15. Info: WomenCrafts, 487-2501.

Moving Men. A presentation of *Dance Umbrella*. Boston Conservatory Theater. May 28-31.

The world of dance is rich in variety and accessible to all — from the disco fiend, to the ballet buff, to those who enjoy simply bouncing around to his or her pop favorite. When developed as a formal discipline, dance becomes art and the human body becomes art in motion. Such was the case with "Moving Men." Organized by Hamish Blackman, Peter Di Muro and Jeremy Alliger, the all-male program featured variety ranging from old-time tap to some marvelously grotesque, modern semi-improvisation.

Billed as "an evening of dance choreographed and performed exclusively by men," Moving Men presented a remarkably understated expression of exclusive maleness. As I looked around the audience at the many familiar faces, it seemed at least 80 percent of us would have loved to see something more gay affirmative than the restrained embrace of Chris Aiken and Olivier Besson in "New Man's Land," or the mawkish slap in the face received in "This Mismeasure of Man," the one time in the entire show that a man dared kiss another man. In many cultures, men of all sexual persuasions hug, kiss, dance together and dare to be much more intimate than what I saw during Moving Men, Friday night.

Notably absent from the repertoire was any example of ballet, a curious omission in a city with such wealth of trained classical dancers. This turning away from the more formal end of the dance spectrum seemed to characterize most of the evening's fare which included the delightfully snappy tap and wry humor of Brian Jones. Two less successful pieces were a rather cute and contrived spoof on evolution, "This Mismeasure of Man," by George Blackman and a self-indulgent posing session by Tommy D. Neblett who writhed and pumped to the dated (circa 1977) electronics of Brian Eno, and was finally upstaged by the powerful drum rhythms of David Byrne's "The Bush of Ghosts." Music also overpowered the dance in "No Count Sarah"; the fullness and perfection of Ms. Vaughn's sultry strains made what was happening on stage seem irrelevant and superfluous. A wiser choice of accompaniment would have focused the attention on the dancers who were actually quite good. With so much new and exciting music being composed locally, it is difficult to imagine not finding more perfectly suited scores.

There were, fortunately, enough moments of real power and beauty to make the evening generally a success. Most notable were "Do Be Do Be Do," a piece choreographed and danced with effortless precision and delicate humor by Marcus Shulkind to the absurdly delightful music of Peter Shickele; a bit of video by David Wadsworth, unremarkable for its style but amazing in its content: rare and wondrous excerpts of Black master tap dancer Leon Collins who was a strong influence on and teacher of many of today's young tappers; and my favorite selection of the evening, "Exposures," choreographed by Jim Coleman and danced by Dan Joyce and Tommy D. Neblett (this time showing us his talents rather than his buns). Based on the ultra-grotesque music of Fred Frith and Henry Kaiser, "Exposures" was the one piece in the entire repertoire which really took any chances and allowed the dancers to get down to a kind of primordial melding of man and motion that allowed the audience a brief but very exciting experience of the spirit which transforms mere men into creatures of dance.

—Tom Grabosky

Calendar compiled by Barnaby Fisher

GayCommunity News

Gay Community News and
The Pledge to Resist the U.S. War in Central America
take great pleasure in presenting a weekend of entertainment
to celebrate Gay Pride 1987!

FRIDAY JUNE 12 • 8:00 P.M.

THE DANCE BRIGADE

nationally renowned women's dance/theater group
from Wallflower Order

at the Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester

\$25 sponsor,* \$13 contributor, \$10 regular, \$6 low income

Please call the Pledge or GCN to arrange for childcare.

This event will be interpreted in ASL and Spanish.



Bonnie Kamin

Advance tickets available in Boston at Glad Day Bookshop; in Cambridge at New Words Bookstore, Bodyworks Gym or Sandy's Music; in Jamaica Plain at Redbook, Food for Thought, or Arborway Video. Mail-order tickets available through the Pledge at 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, or GCN at 62 Berkeley St., Boston. Tickets purchased through mail will be held at door.